

Express Mail No.:EV335614841US  
International Application No.: PCT/EP03/08446  
International Filing Date: 30 July 2003  
Preliminary Amendment

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Method for multiple labeling detection and evaluation of a plurality of particles in specimen analysis comprising the steps of:
  - i) Acquisition of at least one image in a single color scale;
  - ii) A separation of the plurality of particles using a color threshold;
  - iii) Identification and classification of one or more particle types of the plurality of the particles based on the size and shape of the plurality of the particles to form different particle classes; and
  - iv) Visualization of locations of the plurality of particles.
2. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to~~<sup>of</sup> claim 1, wherein the acquisition of contrast images is made by a slow scan cooled charge couple device camera.
3. (Original) Method of claim 2, wherein the images are at least 14 bit images.
4. (Currently Amended) Method of ~~any one of the above~~ claims claim 1, wherein the separation of the plurality of particles is carried out with reference to an underlying background image.

5. (Currently Amended) Method of ~~any one of the above claims~~  
claim 1, wherein the separation of the plurality of particles is carried out with reference to specimen structures.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) Method of ~~any one of the above claims~~  
claim 1, wherein the images are processed using at least 16 bits.

9. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to any one of the above claims of claim 1~~, wherein the image can be a photo-montage of a plurality of the images.

10. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to any one of the above claims of claim 1~~, wherein the step of visualization of the location of the plurality of particle is carried out by a false coloring of the plurality of particles.

11. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to of~~ claim 10, wherein different false colors are used for different particle classes.

12. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to any one of the above claims of claim 1~~, further comprising the generation of an overlay image.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the analysis of particles comprising:

- an image capture device for capturing a single color image of a specimen with a plurality of particles;
- an image enhancement device;

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- an image identification and classification device for classifying the plurality of particles based on the size and shape of the plurality of the particles; and
- a display device for visualizing the specimen with the particles.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~of claim 13, wherein the image capture device is a camera connected to an electron microscope.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~of claim 14, wherein the camera is a slow scan charge coupled device.

16.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to any one of claims 13 to 17~~of claim 13, wherein the display devices visualise visualize the particles in false colors.